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JPRS L/10544

26 May 1982

# Latin America Report

(FOUO 8/82)



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## LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

TACC BACKS MILITARY AID FOR ARGENTINA

PA111220 Havana PRELA in English 2254 GMT 10 May 82

[Text] Managua, 11 May (PL)--The Central American Caribbean Anti-Imperialist Tribunal (TACC) condemned the latest British attacks on the Malvinas and the United States military maneuvers in Guantanamo, Cuba and Vieques, Puerto Rico.

It states in a declaration issued here that the "only explanation for the war-like attitude of Great Britain is the political and military support, supplied by the United States Government.

The TACC reiterated its support to Argentina's legitimate right to maintain its military forces in the Malvinas and any initiative designed to bolster those forces with Latin American armies.

The body voiced solidarity with the initiative of some Latin American governments to create a new continental body excluding the USA, which has always used IATRA [TIAR; Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance] in its own interests.

At the same time it asked Argentine President General Leopoldo Galtieri to restore all public freedoms, release the political prisoners and supply information on the fate of thousands of missing persons in order to build a climate of full national and popular involvement.

It called on all the peoples of the world to "repudiate categorically the imperial policies of Britain and the United States" that have expressed themselves in concrete fashion.

It highlighted in this connection the British aggressions against Argentina, the ocean venture 82 maneuvers and the growing number of U.S. military advisers in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Finally TAC backed the calline of a continental meeting to counteract "all the unilateral, arbitrary measures adopted by the Reagan administration in enacting regulations and protection systems that strike harsh blows at the economies of the countries of our America."

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COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

MILITARY SUPPORT TO ARGENTINA--Lima, 2 May (SAPORITI)--Peruvian War Minister Gen Luis Cisneros Vizquerra, alias "El Gaucho," stated in a ceremony in which he participated marking "Artillery Day," that "Peru is not yet providing military logistical support to Argentina. We are waiting for the Argentines to ask for them and for President Belaunde to decide," in his role as commander in chief of the armed forces. He also stressed his position that the Peruvian Government has already expressed to the Argentine Government its decision to "support it with all its resources." He also indicated that in case our country were to participate militarily in support of the Argentine cause, it has not yet been decided with which detachments or units it would be carried out, but added that in sum, the "army and the armed forces in general are always ready and well-prepared for any contingency." The war minister concluded that the U.S. logistical support to Great Britain has finished the Monroe Doctrine of "America for Americans," and has practically taken itself out of the inter-American reciprocal assistance treaty." [Text.] [PY030146 Buenos Aires SAPORITI in Spanish 0040 GMT 3 May 82]

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COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

WAR COST REPORTEDLY \$300 MILLION SO FAR

PY161353 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1225 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 May (DYN)--According to what the newspaper CLARIN reports today, up to now the war with Great Britain over the Malvinas has cost Argentina \$300 million, without counting the military materiel that has been lost.

In its Sunday political editorial the newspaper states that this expenditure, and other economic disruptions caused by the Malvinas conflict are a cause of great concern among economic officials.

Noting the possibility of changes within the Economy Ministry, the editorial notes that "important political decision-making levels admit that the leadership of Economy Minister Roberto Alemann has never been so weak and his continuing in office so jeopardized."

The newspaper also mentions that some government circles are studying the possibility of adopting emergency economic measures in view of the war with Great Britain.

CLARIN reports that "there have been initiatives in government circles to expand the awareness of the war although, it is not known whether these initiatives will be listened to at the decision-making level."

The editorial adds "These levels maintain that the country is involved in a war with an important power, but that the people are unaware of it since the normal way of life has remained unchanged."

CLARIN reports that among the measure "being promoted by these sectors are the modification in schedule of public events, gas rationing and the cancellation of sports events."

The newspaper adds that these official sectors believe that "the people must be prepared not only to face the unpredictable development in the evolution of the conflict but also the surely serious consequences that it will have in the economic area."

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COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

ECONOMIC CHANGES NEXT ON POLITICAL DECISIONS, SAYS DOCUMENT

PY190603 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1849 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 May (DYN)--A lengthy document attributed to the economic leadership that "is circulating within military and political circles" notes the urgent need for giving confidence to the many national sectors and adds that this can only be achieved through political decisions "even if this means the replacement of the present team and by enforcing a populist and statist philosophy."

The text of the document, which is published this morning by the newspaper AMBITO FINANCIERO, notes that "although the criticisms against the present economic program have ceased for the time being in view of the present international situation, it will have to face a critical period in the next couple of weeks. The point of view that prevails will depend on the decision the government adopts since this and the weak points of the government economic policy will be the center of the debate."

The document adds that the majority of criticism is against the 1977 financial reform which, according to its detractors, "has been the cause of financial speculation."

It adds that "the present economic program can meet these criticisms, but its success is conditioned on the political stability of the team that is in power at present."

The document states that "efforts are being made to try and avoid the Martinez de Hoz experience" along with his liberal policy which is condescending "and has a strongly statist attitude regarding public expenditures."

It adds that "it will always be good for the country if there is agreement between the political policy and the economic policy in force. Our long-suffering citizens do not deserve to be paying the high price caused by these contradictions within the center of power. It will always be more fruitful to adopt an economic policy that is in agreement with the government's political guidelines even if this means the replacement of the present team and the implementation of a populist and statist philosophy. Therefore, if there is no contraposition between the political and economic policies the former will necessarily support the latter."

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The document states that "the persistent high interest rates on bank loans have caused an unusual increase in business liabilities to the point that business profits are not enough to refund the principal and pay interests." Therefore the economic program is being conditioned by the situation so created.

It adds that "in some cases this situation has already forced the Central Bank to finance the return of savers' deposits with an inflation-caused tax and to take over the accounts of said banks and financial companies.

"This situation has reached a point of immorality and lack of control that is difficult to explain to third parties.

"The functionaires of the finance palace themselves lose the power of persuasion when they limit reimbursements to industries or halt the construction of the Bahia Blanca petrochemical complex, and simultaneously money should be printed in comparable amounts to compensate for the funds that, as "self-loans," have been appropriated by the executives of the financial companies that have folded.

"The persistence of high interest rates is not only an obstacle to economic reactivation, but it reflects the fact that the transfer of income continues in the form previously mentioned. This circumstance exposes the weakest flank of the current economic leadership," said the economic experts in their critical document.

In proposing possible solutions "in a system of freedom." The document notes that "there is in general terms a phenomenon represented by the transfer of income" from the entrepreneurial sector to individuals or even to other enterprises. This is an undeniable phenomenon and the only solution is to rechannel those resources to productive enterprises to permit them to rebuild their capacity to operate as such.

"In a system within which markets must operate there is no worse obstacle to the survival of such markets than the large transfer of funds which is determined by the public authorities, that is to say, 'the comings and goings caused by decrees.' This causes uncertainty and the impossibility of adopting decisions for the future."

The document affirms that "we are opposed to heroic mechanisms trying to solve the problem being confronted through an inflationary shock or other measures permitting the abrupt 'liquidation' of liabilities, because such a procedure distorts the very essence of a free economy and represents the seed of sectorial or class struggles to take over power and to use the economic instruments for the transfer of incomes without restraints or limitations."

"The question of enterprises' liabilities should be solved through the supply of capital to enterprises in difficulties by a procedure of sharing losses (reabsorption of liabilities) among all the individuals and enterprises connected with the one in difficulties. This procedure of "reaccommodation" is the only natural and just procedure since it permits a spontaneous accommodation to the situation of a particular enterprise on a case by case basis, without need to resort to impositions implied in authoritarian alternatives."

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"The capitalization of enterprises should be achieved through the incorporation of new partners, merger mechanisms or the sale of share portfolios. In turn, the reduction of liabilities should be made through court procedures or outside court arrangements, necessarily involving renegotiations on the conditions for paying liabilities (debt reductions, waiting periods, new guarantees, extended deadlines)."

Then the document explains that "interconnection of the economic channels will permit the orderly transfer to the entire system of the liabilities accumulated by indebted enterprises. Thus the transfer via high interest rates will return to the productive system in a piecemeal, dispersed and voluntary form."

The document continues by saying that "from the standpoint of demand on loanable funds, the reduction of interest rates will be possible through a lesser participation of the state in the financial market and the closedown of companies which continue to receive deposits to finance them and which are in a state insolvency or which continue to make self-loans. From the standpoint of the offer of funds to the financial system, money supply can only be increased by creating confidence and stability. As long as the depositors believe that there will be changes in policy and a 'softening' of current monetary and fiscal measures, the inflationary expectations thereby created are responsible for the prevalence of operations that are short term so as to permit the obtaining of greater interest rates in the future as a hedge against the expected higher inflation."

"To the extent that there is no certainty about policies it is impossible to obtain positive results," emphasizes the document.

The officials of the finance palace stated that "if the political authorities let it be understood that the solution 'by decrees' is possible, the businessmen's effort will be concentrated on the front of labor struggles so as to attain the effective solution through that route, and it will not take any action so as to obtain capitalization through voluntary procedures.

"This is how the entire financial system, which should be involved in a profound and active process 'absorbing' debits through capitalizations, mergers, stock transfers and operation streamlinings, has come to a virtual standstill awaiting a change in economic policy, or even a change of economy minister."

The document then indicates that "although the current stage of the recessive cycle offers investment opportunities at low cost and this should normally invite an interest in making investments in enterprises which are in difficulties by those who have capital available, the uncertainty causes the postponement of such investments and the adoption of a 'wait and see' attitude over the short term.

"The same reasoning applies to the absorption of debits through the interconnection of channels within the system."

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According to finance palace officials, the same thing applies to the interest rates to the extent that depositors do not receive firm and convincing signals that the economic policy will be respected and adhered to. The depositors will not act in response to declarations by the economy minister, but will pay attention to the proposals of political leaders who have access to official spheres and could possibly exert influence."

The document also says that "the financial system cannot be revitalized without giving assurances, and no reactivation can be obtained without reassurances."

Summing up, the document states, "the alternative proposed by the ongoing economic program are strongly conditioned by the political context and, to the extent that the political question is not tackled head on, the economic program can be doomed to failure for reasons that are not intrinsic to the program itself. Thus disrupting once again the application of liberal economic principles and the possibility of their being restored in Argentina.

"There are many reasons why the authoritarian solutions are much more attractive than the voluntary solution referred to earlier.

"The prolonged experience of a controlled economy in Argentina has caused the majority of the population to be sold on that school of economic thinking.

"Secondly, the economic interests of those businessmen who have suffered the consequences of the arbitrary transfer of income via the high interest rates logically influence their preference for a system that will permit them to rebuild their assets through government decisions rather than through a voluntary system of negotiations with the owners of capital.

"Thirdly, the politicians prefer to gain the support of the organized sectors, even when the abrupt transfer of incomes is ultimately detrimental to those who have no voice and who should normally constitute their electoral support."

In closing and after enumerating the "obnoxious effects" of the authoritarian solution, the documents of the finance palace officials concludes by stating that "the solution to the economic problem will not be obtained through theories, but through the substantial transformations that can only be brought about by political decisions."

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COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

INDUSTRIALIST PREDICTS ARAB AID

PY140325 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1336 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 May (DYN)--Upon his arrival this morning at Ezeiza International Airport, financier Jorge Antonio, who held a meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to inform him on Argentina's position regarding the dispute with Great Britain over the sovereignty of the southern archipelagos, said that the Arabs "will give us everything we need."

Antonio noted: "Today every Argentine has the duty of carrying out a mission, it is even better if this mission is to support the country, the government and the people."

He said: I believe I have fulfilled this objective. I have met with 'Arafat who has offered his complete support for the Argentine Government and people."

Jorge Antonio added that 'Arafat "has denied many alleged incidents that had deteriorated relations between the PLO and Argentina. He has supported Argentina at the United Nations. The Argentine Government has expressed its appreciation in this regard. He has offered the Argentine Government everything it needs and also to exert his influence on other Arab countries where because he is highly respected he will be able to obtain what Argentina needs."

Asked which were the "misunderstandings" between the Argentine Government and the PLO, Jorge Antonio answered that "at one time there was talk that some terrorists were photographed with him."

According to Antonio, 'Arafat said: "This is absurd. I meet with all individuals who come to see me, who are involved in a liberation process. Everyone takes a picture with me. But I never have or will be against the Argentine Government. I demand an opportunity to prove it."

According to Antonio, 'Arafat said: "I am interested in the Argentine Government and the present situation. Argentina can count on the complete support of our community."

About the position of Arab countries regarding the Anglo-Argentine conflict, Antonio notes: "We will have the support of all the Arabs."

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He said: "In view of this situation in Argentina, which has caused a great change in the international economic process, the Arabs have realized who are their true friends."

Antonio noted: "We should realize who are our friends. They may be found in the American continent and in Arab countries which want, aspire and seek to establish bilateral relations with Argentina."

He added: "I have specific suggestions to make and I will demand the making of important decisions. We will have from them everything the country needs."

Later he added: "We have learned a lesson. Unfortunately, our friends are not in Europe; we are not all aware that this is the case."

Asked whether he would hold meetings with official government representatives to inform them on his mission, he said: "I suppose so."

Asked how this Arab aid will be carried out, he said: "They will give us everything we need. There is no doubt about that."

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COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

LACROZE STATES GRAIN EXPORTS TO USSR NORMAL

PY181545 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1446 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 May (DYN)--Argentine cereal grain exporters spokesmen noted today that the Soviet Union has already loaded more than 6.5 million tons of cereal grains and wheat during the first 5 months of 1982 and that now, as is natural, it is awaiting the results of its own harvest before deciding on whether to make more purchases in the country.

Moreover, today Livestock and Agriculture Secretary Raul Salabarren informed the newspaper LA NACION that David Lacroze, the under secretary of agriculture and the interventor in the national grain board, will travel to Moscow before the end of the month to arrange new grain sales until the end of the year.

This information was disclosed here today almost simultaneously with British reports that stated that the Soviet Union may have decided to stop buying Argentine cereal grains in view of the conflict with Great Britain and in view of the possibility of obtaining better sale conditions from the United States.

Grain exporters noted that the agreement with the Soviet Union for the sale of 4.5 million tons of corn, sorghum, and soybeans per year, over a period of 5 years, has already been fulfilled up to May.

They also disclosed that during the first 5 months of the year an additional 2 million tons of wheat have been exported to the Soviet Union beyond the terms of the agreement.

The spokesmen added that "it is normal" for the Soviet Union to suspend its grain purchases in June and July since this is the period of its own harvest and therefore, it will resume its imports afterwards, in keeping with its needs.

Last year, the Soviet Union purchased from Argentina almost 13 million tons of different cereal grains, thus becoming one of the main buyers of Argentine products.

Furthermore, the grain exporters spokesmen did not grant much importance to British speculations that another reason for the cease of shipments to the

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Soviet Union is that Lloyds of London has decided not to cover the insurance of ships that transit the South Atlantic.

In this regard they added that the Argentine-Soviet grain trade "is almost completely transported" aboard "chartered" third flag ships, particularly Greek, Liberian and Panamanian ships.

As for government comments on the reports, Lacroze told La Nacion that these reports "come from a country that is at war with us and that is trying to harm us by any means."

Moreover he said that "the Soviet Union withdrew from the grain market almost 1 month ago" and that this attitude "does not only affect Argentina but also the United States."

He added that the shipment schedule "is being carried out normally." He said that the decision of Lloyds of London not to cover the risk on ship that go through the South Atlantic "caused an increase of \$1 per ton in the cost of insurance. Therefore, there is no problem in obtaining freight cargo."

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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

SOVIET AMBASSADOR UNINJURED--Rio de Janeiro, 16 May (SAPORITI)--A jet plane in which the Soviet ambassador in Brazil, his wife, the embassy's first secretary, two children and executives of Brazilian Mining Company were traveling did not stop at the end of the runway and crossed a road at the Uberlandia Airport. The ambassador and his wife were not hurt. The president of the Brazilian Metallurgy and Mining Company and Russian embassy personnel, including two children, suffered bruises. Pilot Roosevelt dos Santos was also injured. The ambassador is Vladimir Ivanovich Chernyshev. The injured Russians are the couple (Ladislav) and (Narisa Kanekova), who have been admitted to the Santa Cecilia de Uberlandia Hospital, a secretary and the first secretary of the Russian Embassy in Brazil, and two Russian children. [Text] [PY170212 Buenos Aires SAPORITI in Spanish 0115 GMT 17 May 82]

SHIP IN CONFLICT ZONE--Rio de Janeiro, 11 May (SAPORITI)--The Brazilian vessel "Pioneiro" of the Transroll Shipping Company last weekend sailed through the area in conflict between Argentina and England. Washington Barbeito, president of the shipping company, stated that the ship, which sailed through the maritime corridor between the Malvinas Islands and which already is near Buenos Aires, is expected in the port of Santos on Thursday. Barbeito stated that the Brazilian ships comply with the rules of the navy which determine that the vessels advise their position to the fleets of the two countries in conflict. The maritime corridor is 40 miles wide, which makes it quite safe for the merchant ships. [Text] [PY112159 Buenos Aires SAPORITI in Spanish 1950 GMT 11 May 82]

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COUNTRY SECTION

EL SALVADOR

APOLINARIO SERRANO FRONT OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED

PA111531 Havana PRELA in English 1252 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] Mexico City, 11 May (PL)--A United States regional strategic plan to wipe out the Salvadoran revolutionary movement and lay the groundwork for launching an attack on Nicaragua was denounced here.

Guerrilla Commander Douglas, assistant chief of the Apolinario Serrano Front in El Salvador, told POR ESTO magazine that the plan is designed to counteract the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution which opened a political space in Central America in restricting the aims and interests of Washington.

In regard to his country he said the U.S. intervention takes the form of military advisers, direct support to the army and the support of other governments.

He said that U.S. military strategy for El Salvador contains three main stages, the first being that of attrition, and involves repression of the rural people who can aid the guerrillas.

The second phase goes by the name of total annihilation of the revolutionary movement.

These two stages explained Douglas, involve permanent defense in the cities and other places where the guerrilla may find protection.

The final stage he indicated involves the installation of fixed garrisons with a mobile combat unit to combine both types of forces, he added.

However, he indicated, the war in practice has shown that the enemy is not able to combat successfully against the guerrilla which operates throughout the country.

That is why they have had to have recourse to foreign troops mainly Honduran and Guatemalan.

The contradiction of their military strategy, he concluded, is that they need large forces to cover the whole country with both fixed and mobile forces.

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COUNTRY SECTION

GRENADA

BISHOP SCORES U.S. DEPORTATION OF GRENADIAN

PA160110 Havana PRELA in English 2359 GMT 15 May 82

[Text:] Saint George's, 15 May (PL)--The Grenadian Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, said that the presence here of the Surinamese top leader, Lieutenant General Desi Bouterse, is a proof of the unity between the peoples of Grenada and Suriname.

Similar relations of unity have been achieved with Cuba and Nicaragua, he stressed.

Bishop headed a meeting of the popular militias in this capital, in which participated as special guest, Bouterse, president of the National Military Council of Suriname, who is paying a several-day visit to this country.

The premier referred to the case of the young Grenadian Catholic girl, Suzanne Berkley, who was recently deported from Puerto Rico by the colonial authorities of the United States.

The U.S. officials charged Suzanne of trying to enter the island to carry out anti-U.S. activities, in spite of the young girl having a visa from the U.S. Embassy in Barbados to attend a religious conference.

That action "is a new example of the lack of respect with which the U.S. Government is treating the peoples of the region," stated Bishop.

He called the attention on that from all the persons invited to the conference, the only one arrested, maintained in preventive custody, threatened, deported, intimidated and mistreated was the Grenadina representative.

He warned that this proves that the Reagan administration will continue trying to find the ways to pressure and humiliate Grenada, as well as by making it victim of economic aggressions and military threats.

Bishop highlighted as an example of the courage of the Grenadian people the attitude maintained by Suzanne Berkley in front of the frightening acts of which she was object.

"We are a poor country but a proud one which will not go down on our knees in front of imperialism," underlined the prime minister.

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COUNTRY SECTION

NICARAGUA

'PRELA' HIGHLIGHTS BAYARDO ARCE INTERVIEW

PA132030 Havana PRELA in English 1234 GMT 13 May 82

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Managua, 13 May (PL)--Commander Bayardo Arce Castano warned that the U.S. plans against the Nicaraguan revolution are still underway.

Due to that hostile policy, economic difficulties are greater now and this causes greater restrictions on our people and greater sacrifices for going ahead with our revolutionary plans," he stated.

In an interview published by the magazine PATRIA LIBRE--in its May number--the coordinator of the political commission of the Sandinist Front warned that in spite of having obtained some political victories, that does not mean to say that "we should look toward the future with too much optimism."

When analyzing the diplomatic efforts made by Nicaragua, he said that after the victory meant by the discussion in the UN Security Council, it was decided not to take the case to the General Assembly "since [words indistinct] want to humiliate U.S. policy."

Nicaragua chose, he underlined, to preserve the need to begin direct negotiations with the United States in a third country and proposes Mexico as the meeting's venue, since it enjoys sufficient international respect and prestige and besides has cordial relations with the sides in conflict.

After mentioning the 8 U.S. points and the 13 Nicaraguan, he manifested that there had been (?no) concrete reply from Washington for starting the talks.

He recalled that hostile actions against Nicaragua have taken place since the meeting of the Security Council, such as the presence of warships in its territorial waters and the flying of U.S. spy planes over its territory.

The Sandinist leader said that the United States played the card of ex-Commander Eden Pastora because it was "the way to keep open the possibility of the aggressive maneuver."

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He also referred to the possibility that it [word indistinct] attempt to form a "government in exile" with counterrevolutionary elements and he pointed out that it would be no surprise if an alternative of that kind turns up, "in which would obviously be Pastora."

Bayardo Arce alluded to the act that the American people are protesting increasingly against the policy of the present administration and he predicted that in next November's parliamentary elections that country will surely make an aboutturn.

Concerning the chief watchword of the Nicaraguan labour movement on May Day [word indistinct] are defending the revolution, for the construction of socialism." He asserted [word indistinct] not government or Sandinist Front policy in this stage.

- He explained that the workers [words indistinct] and interests will be unable  
- to be resolved without the construction of socialism. "Obviously we respect  
the feelings of the workers," Arce stated.

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COUNTRY SECTION

NICARAGUA

MOZAMBIQUE'S MACHEL, DANIEL ORTEGA MEET

PA171614 Havana PRELA in English 1315 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Managua, 17 May (PL)--The president of Mozambique, Samora Machel, stated that Sandinist's and Carlos Fonseca's names belong to the patrimony of the glorious resistance against the imperialist domination and exploitation.

These two heroes--he underlined--do not have tombs, they live in today's struggle, in the victories we have already had, and they inspire the consolidation of the revolution in any continent.

He expressed his solidarity with the Nicaraguan people in their struggle for the national reconstruction and against the internal and external enemies.

He also stated that U.S. imperialism is aggressing Nicaragua combining military and economic actions, just like in Mozambique.

We should combine efforts in the common struggle of our peoples, veterans of the struggle for the liberation in Central America and southern Africa, he underlined.

For his part, the coordinator of the Government Junta for National Reconstruction (JGRN), Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, expressed that the revolutions of Mozambique also has them and is moved and handled by a common enemy.

He referred to the two attacks carried out in Nicaragua last Friday from Honduran territory, and stated, that Mozambique is facing actions of similar elements.

A short time before that Machel and Ortega warmly embraced when the African leader arrived in a plane of the Mozambique Airlines which took him to Nicaragua after a 20-hour flight.

This is the first visit to Nicaragua of an African head of state since the revolutionary victory in July of 1979.

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COUNTRY SECTION

PANAMA

BRIEFS

FARMING AGREEMENT WITH CUBA--Panama City, 17 May (PL)--A vast scientific-technical cooperation program in the farming sector for this year was signed by Cuba and Panama. The agreement part of a program in existence since 1979 was signed by Panamanian Agriculture Minister Rene Gonzalez and Manuel Gutierrez, vice president of the State Cooperation Committee of Cuba. The plan covers exchange of experiences, research results and visits by experts. The Cubans will supply technical means, installations, documentation and experts for training Panamanian technicians in vegetable production and health, irrigation systems and management and marketing channels. Cuba will also prove send [as received] to Panama technical personnel to learn about the advanced systems used by Panamanian experts in quarantine control of importing and to prevent the entry and wipe out blights in coffee, bananas and cattle. [Text] [PA162006 Havana PRELA in English 1955 GMT 16 May 82]

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COUNTRY SECTION

ST. LUCIA

**PLP CHARGES U.S. INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS**

PA040404 Havana PRELA in English 0021 GMT 4 May 82

[Article by Arnaldo Hutchinson]

[Text] Castries, 4 May (PL)--The top leader of the Saint Lucia Progressive Labor Party, George Odlum, charged the U.S. Government with seeking to influence the results of his country's elections through the ocean venture 82 military maneuvers.

In a speech right before the Monday elections, Odlum said that with the maneuvers near the island, Washington seeks to intimidate the population.

Reportedly activities related to the maneuvers took place just 25 miles from this Eastern Caribbean island.

During the campaign the regional press highlighted the frequent visits to Saint Lucia by U.S. Embassy staff members in (?Barbados).

The most recent of those visits said the sources was that of Milan Bish, U.S. ambassador for the Eastern Caribbean, who met at length with John Compton, leader of the United Workers Party [UWP].

The sources concluded that the topic of the election played a prominent part in the talks.

Those factors among others have led observers to stress that the U.S. Government has tried to wield its influence in favor of Compton.

Meanwhile the voters began to go to the polls in the midst of exceptional security measures.

The main police station in the capital was surrounded by barbed wire while the polling stations were protected by security forces.

The campaign which began in March has been characterized by strong antagonism between the three parties, which gave rise to numerous acts of violence.

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Although during the final days of the campaign there were no serious incidents, the authorities fear that such incidents cannot be ruled out.

Over 75,000 registered voters will elect 17 members of Parliament from 51 candidates.

The UWP of John Compton, the Saint Lucia Labor Party of Peter Josie and the Progressive Labor Party of George Odlum are the three groupings that are vying for the favor of the voters.

The elections will determine who will be the next prime minister of Saint Lucia, which since its independence on 22 February 1979, has had four heads of government: Compton, Allan Louisy, Winston Cenac and Michael Pilgrim.

However there is widespread doubt on the part of a broad sector of the country that results of the process will do much to solve the serious economic and social problems of this island nation of slightly over 120,000 people.

The current prime minister, Michael Pilgrim, called on the voters to cast their ballots in favor of structural changes in the political system to make way for national unity and progress, in a statement winding up the campaign.

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COUNTRY SECTION

URUGUAY

BRIEFS

SOCIALIST PARTY ARRESTS--Montevideo, 29 Apr (SAPORITI)--The Uruguayan police have arrested six members of the outlawed Socialist Party. According to a communique issued by the police headquarters in this city, the detained were involved in indoctrinating and convincing cadres in the working and student sector and carrying out collections to finance the clandestine organization. The police seized different kinds of materials used by the group to print and spread propaganda. These materials were found in a small house located in the seaside resort area of the country a few kilometers from this capital. [Text] [PY041818 Buenos Aires SAPORITI in Spanish 0210 GMT 29 Apr 82]

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